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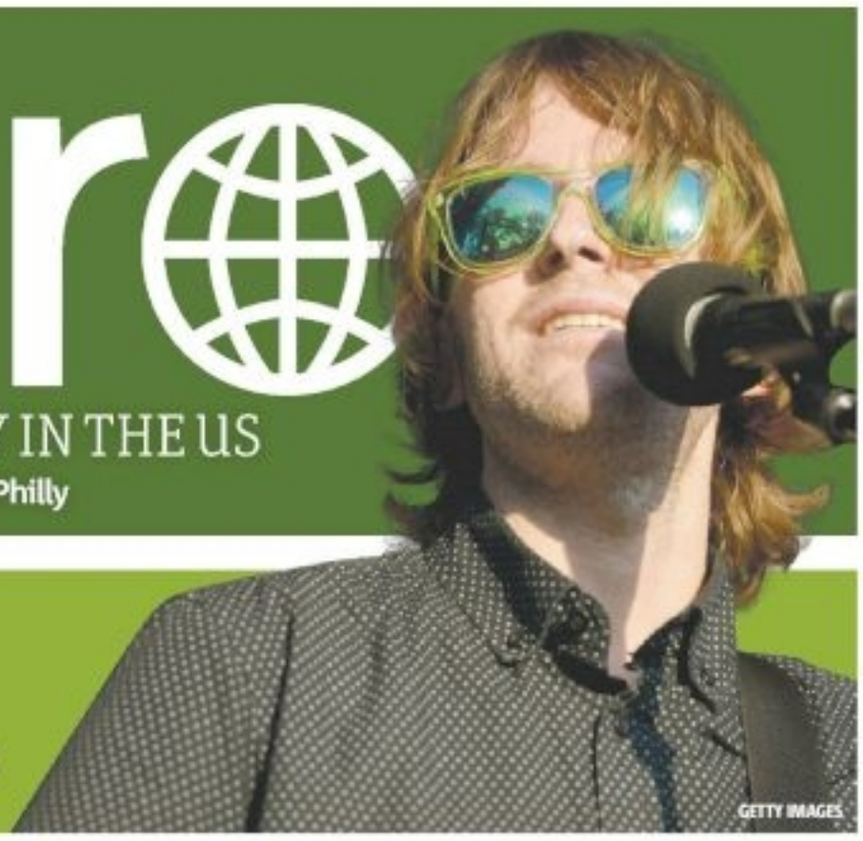

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'RENUNCIAR'

Hundreds of thousands of protesters marched through San Juan calling for Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello to resign after offensive texts were leaked. 6-7

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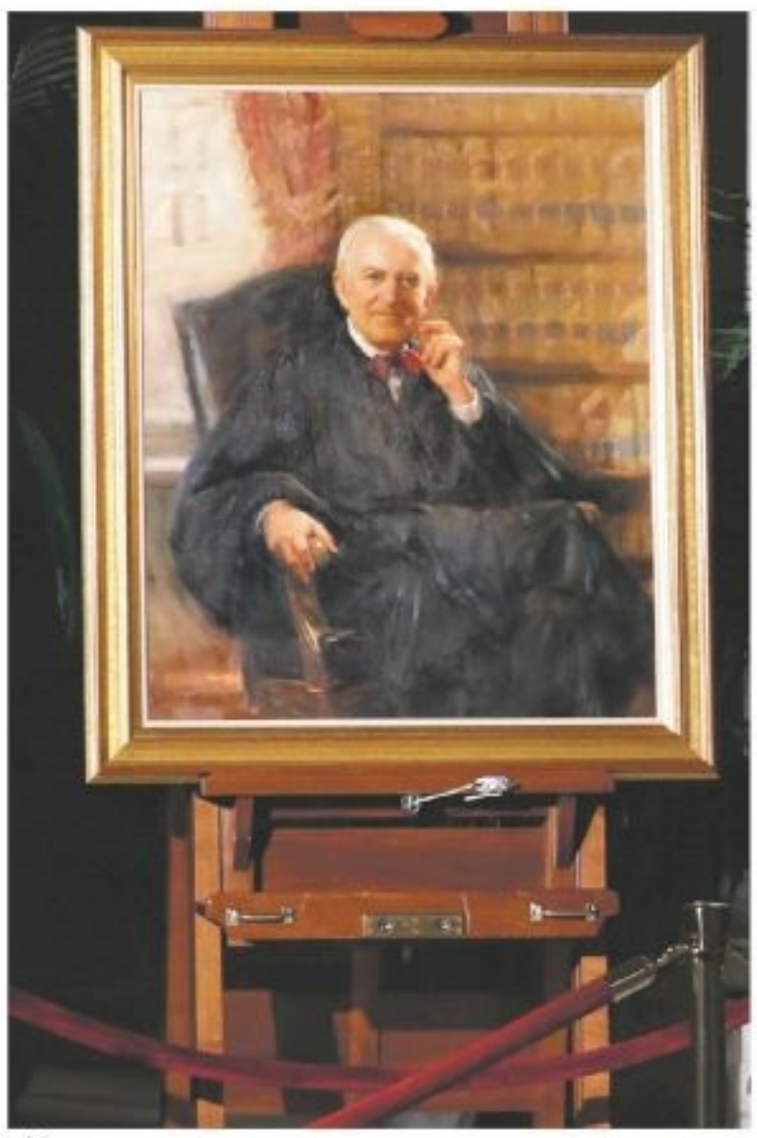
VSiN

8 THINGS TO KNOW

Trump, justices pay respects to late jurist John Paul Stevens

The former Supreme Court justice died last Tuesday at age 99.



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump pay their respects at the casket of former Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. REUTERS

President Donald Trump, members of the U.S. Supreme Court and others paid their respects on Monday to liberal Justice John Paul Stevens, who died last week, as his body lay in repose in the courthouse's stately great hall.

Stevens, who was appointed by President Gerald Ford in 1975 and retired from the top U.S. judicial body in 2010, died on July 16 at age 99 of complications from a stroke in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He was one of the longest-serving justices in U.S. history.

Five of the nine current justices, including Chief Justice John Roberts, attended a brief ceremony. They stood somberly with heads bowed in front of the black casket, which was draped with a U.S. flag.

Trump, accompanied by first lady Melania Trump, visited after the ceremony, pausing silently in front of the casket for a few moments.

Before walking to the casket, Trump shook hands with Roberts, whom the Republican president has criticized in the past. Roberts last year issued an unusual statement rebuking Trump for his criticisms of judges who have ruled against him, and in June was the author of a ruling that blocked the Trump administration from including a contentious citizenship question in the 2020 national census.

During the ceremony, liberal Justice Elena Kagan, who replaced Stevens on the court, delivered brief remarks.

"He was a brilliant man with extraordinary legal gifts and talents, which he combined with a deep devotion to the rule of law and a deep commitment to equal justice," Kagan said of Stevens.

Stevens' family members and dozens of his former law clerks also attended. Stevens' male relatives wore bow ties, echoing the late justice's signature sartorial preference.

The four absent justices had previously scheduled commitments, a court spokeswoman said.

Stevens was scheduled to be buried on Tuesday in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Stevens was a Republican appointee who became a key liberal vote on the court. As it moved to the right in the early 1990s under Chief Justice William Rehnquist, Stevens became the leader of the court's liberal faction. That continued when Roberts replaced Rehnquist in 2005, with the justices often sharply divided on social issues such as abortion. REUTERS

> **"He was a brilliant man with extraordinary legal gifts and talents, which he combined with a deep devotion to the rule of law and a deep commitment to equal justice."**
> Justice Elena Kagan

Britain calls for naval counter to Iran's 'piracy'

2 Britain called on Monday for a European-led naval mission to ensure safe shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, days after Iran seized a British-flagged tanker in what London described as an act of "state piracy." Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt outlined the plans to parliament after a meeting of COBR, the government's emergency committee, which discussed London's response to Friday's capture of the Stena Impero tanker by Iranian commandos at sea. "Under international law Iran had no right to obstruct the ship's passage, let alone board her. It was therefore an act of state piracy," Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt told parliament. "We will now seek to put together a European-led maritime protection mission to support safe passage of both crew and cargo in this vital region," Hunt said. REUTERS

Cowboys remain atop Forbes' most valuable teams

3 The Dallas Cowboys were ranked the world's most valuable sports team for a fourth consecutive year, according to an annual list published by Forbes on Monday that was dominated by National Football League clubs. The NFL's Cowboys, who unseated Spanish soccer club Real Madrid for top spot on the list in 2016, were valued at $5 billion, a 4 percent rise when compared to last year, Forbes said in a statement. Major League Baseball's New York Yankees, who last year enjoyed a 10 percent jump in attendance along with strong ratings on the team's YES Network, moved up three spots to sit second on the list with a value of $4.6 billion. Real Madrid ($4.2 billion), Spanish soccer club Barcelona ($4.02 billion) and the National Basketball Association's New York Knicks ($4 billion) rounded out the top five. REUTERS

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A massive fire burns at Philadelphia Energy Solutions oil refinery in this still image from video in Philadelphia. REUTERS

Philadelphia Energy Solutions files for bankruptcy

PES is still eligible for insurance claim payouts of up to $1.25 billion.

Philadelphia Energy Solutions filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, the company said on Monday, its second such filing in less than two years, after a fire last month prompted it to close the largest refinery on the East Coast.

Following the June 21 explosions and blaze, PES started shutting down the 335,000-barrel-per-day Philadelphia plant without a planned restart. Some 1,000 workers are being laid off.

The company's lenders agreed to provide up to $100 million in new financing to PES to usher it through the bankruptcy, it said.

The agreement allows PES to "safely wind down our refining operations and, with the support of our insurers and stakeholders, best position the company for a successful reorganization, the rebuilding of our damaged infrastructure, and a restart of our refining operations," Mark Smith, chief executive officer of PES Energy, said in a statement.

"The success of our plan is critical to energy supply and security for the region, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia," Smith said.

PES could receive payouts of $1.25 billion in insurance claims connected to the fire and business closure, according to two sources briefed on the company's policies.

The potential payouts include $1 billion for property damage and $250 million for loss of business, the sources said.

The insurance payouts were expected to be used as collateral for the new bankruptcy financing, the sources said.

PES has multiple owners, including investment bank Credit Suisse and investment firm Bardin Hill, and has both assets and liabilities between $1 billion and $10 billion, court filings show.

PES also asked to continue making insurance payments. Its premiums cost about $1.4 million each month on 39 policies, according to filings with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware.

The refinery has struggled financially for years, slashing worker benefits and scaling back capital projects to save cash. PES filed for bankruptcy in January 2018 to reduce debt, but cash on hand dwindled even after the company emerged from the process later in the year.

It was not clear whether re-entering Chapter 11, which allows the company to restructure as opposed to liquidate its assets, would alter the interest of prospective buyers.

The company began selling its oil supplies and some equipment since announcing it would seek to shut the plant, triggering employee concerns PES no longer aimed to find a buyer willing to restart the refinery as it had initially said.

More than 600 union refinery workers will be laid off on Aug. 25. Others were let go shortly after the fire.

Hundreds of contractors that do business with the refinery are also expected to be affected by the shutdown.

Ryan O'Callaghan, head of the refinery union, said he was not surprised by the latest Chapter 11 filing.

"We went through it before and came out of it," O'Callaghan said. "And the refinery kept going."

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Hundreds of thousands in San Juan demand Puerto Rico's governor resign

Ricardo Rossello said he would not step down but won't seek re-election.

Hundreds of thousands of people filled San Juan streets on Monday to demand that Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello resign over offensive chat messages, the latest scandal to hit a bankrupt island struggling to recover from deadly 2017 hurricanes.

Rossello's announcement on Sunday that he would not seek re-election next year and would step down as head of the New Progressive Party seemed to have little effect on the crowds, who called for him to immediately surrender the governorship. The island's largest newspaper on Monday called on the first-term governor to leave office.

Crowds of people, many dressed in black T-shirts and waving the U.S. island territory's flag, filled a major highway in San Juan in the latest in a series of more than a week of sometimes violent protests in the capital and elsewhere.

"They can't deny it: The power is in the street," San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz wrote in a Twitter message on Monday.

"These governments are corrupt governments," said Martin Gonzalez, who joined Monday's march. "The people must make themselves be respected. And we take to the streets to be respected."

Rossello, 40, asked for forgiveness and said he respected the wishes of Puerto Ricans in a message broadcast online on Sunday.

"I know that apologizing is not enough," Rossello said in a video posted on Facebook. "A significant sector of the population has been protesting for days. I'm aware of the dissatisfaction and discomfort they feel. Only my work will help restore the trust of these sectors."

The publication on July 13 of sexist and homophobic chat messages between Rossello and top aides unleashed simmering resentment over his handling of devastating hurricanes in 2017, alleged corruption in his administration, and the island's bankruptcy process.

The protests were also sparked by U.S. authori-

What did the gov. say to spark the outrage?

As thousands of people filled the streets of San Juan, Puerto Rico's governor, Ricardo Rossello, on Sunday refused to resign over leaked text messages that were laced with sexist, homophobic and derogatory remarks that went so far as to ridicule victims of Hurricane Maria.

The San Juan protests have put an international spotlight on the texting scandal, which has been dubbed "Chatgate" and "Rickygate." But what exactly did Rossello say to fuel the outrage?

Nearly 900 pages of exchanges leaked and published by The Center for Investigative Journalism show inflammatory remarks in a group text between Rossello and his inner circle.

In the texts, Rossello spews hate about former NYC Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, calling her a "wh—e." In another conversation, Puerto Rico's former chief fiscal officer

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ties' announcement of a federal indictment involving six people, including two former high-ranking Puerto Rico government officials, charged with conspiracy and other crimes in connection with millions of dollars in federal Medicaid and education funds.

Puerto Rico's largest newspaper, El Nuevo Dia, called on Rossello to resign in an editorial published on Monday.

"Puerto Rico has spoken up, not only as a strong, broad and united voice but as the right voice," the editorial said. "With a gesture of nobility and humility, Governor, it is time to listen to the people. You have to resign."

President Donald Trump, who feuded with Rossello in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, blasted the governor at the White House on Monday.

"He's a terrible governor," Trump said. "You have totally grossly incompetent leadership at the top of Puerto Rico."

"POWER OF THE PEOPLE"

Puerto Rico's non-voting representative to the U.S. Congress as well as Democratic presidential candidates and lawmakers have called for the governor to step aside after nine days of sometimes violent protests.

Puerto Rico House Speaker Carlos Mendez, part of Rossello's New Progressive Party, appointed an independent panel on Friday to investigate whether the chats warranted impeachment.

The political turmoil comes at a critical stage in the island's bankruptcy process as it tries to restructure some $120 billion in debt and pension obligations.

It has also raised concerns among U.S. lawmakers who are weighing the island's requests for billions of federal dollars for health care and work to recover from Hurricane Maria, which led to nearly 3,000 deaths.

Puerto Rican celebrities including pop singer Ricky Martin, a target of the governor's chats, meringue singer Olga Tanon and rapper Bad Bunny joined the protest crowds.

"I want to feel the power of the people," Martin, 47, said in a Facebook video, urging legislative leaders to start an impeachment process.

REUTERS

Christian Sobrino Vega expressed frustration with San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz and said he wanted to shoot her.

"You'd be doing me a grand favor," Rossello responded.

In one particularly unsettling exchange, Rossello makes fun of the victims of Hurricane Maria, which devastated the island in 2017, killing more than 3,000 people. Sobrino Vega, the former chief financial officer, made a joke about the number of bodies in the aftermath of Maria. Rossello responded, "Now that we are on the subject, don't we have some cadavers to feed our crows?"

Rossello also ridiculed Puerto Rican pop star Ricky Martin for his homosexuality.

"Nothing says patriarchal oppression like Ricky Martin," he wrote.

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Cristiano Ronaldo will not face Vegas rape charges

The woman and soccer star reached a settlement in 2010.

Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo. GETTY IMAGE

Portuguese soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo will face no charges in Las Vegas in connection with a 10-year-old sexual assault allegation because the case cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, prosecutors said on Monday.

Ronaldo, who is widely regarded as one of the greatest soccer players of all time and plays for the Italian club Juventus, has maintained he is innocent of rape.

The allegation made headlines last year after Las Vegas police said they were investigating it.

The case stems from a June 13, 2009, call from a woman to Las Vegas police. She reported that she had been sexually assaulted and police took her to the hospital for an examination, the Clark County District Attorney's Office said in a statement on Monday.

But she declined to identify the person who she said assaulted her.

The woman and Ronaldo reached a civil settlement in 2010 and law enforcement did not hear from her again until Aug. 28, 2018, when she asked police to reopen the investigation. She said Ronaldo was the person who sexually assaulted her, prosecutors said.

"Based upon a review of the information presented at this time, the allegations of sexual assault against Cristiano Ronaldo cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt," the District Attorney's Office said in a statement.

Ronaldo's attorney, Peter Christiansen, and a representative for his sports agents could not immediately be reached for comment. REUTERS

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♈ **Aries** Get busy, do something physical and make changes that will improve your life, relationships and lifestyle. Expand your mind and your interests.

♉ **Taurus** A change will take you by surprise. Don't feel pressured to jump into something without first getting all the facts. Time is on your side. Good things will develop if you are patient.

♊ **Gemini** Alter the way you live or how you approach carrying out your responsibilities. Refuse to let anyone take you for granted or manipulate you. Walk away from excessive people and situations.

♋ **Cancer** Your goals should be to stabilize your life and nurture meaningful relationships. Try not to let your emotions interfere with your responsibilities or productivity. Say less and do more.

♌ **Leo** Take a journey. Whether it's a physical, mental or spiritual trip, what you gain will be enlightening. Opportunity is within reach if you are willing to work hard.

♍ **Virgo** Embrace change and be open to discussing new possibilities. An opportunity to negotiate a better deal or to invest in something looks promising. Substantial improvements can be made.

♎ **Libra** Work hard to make things better. Doing your part and maintaining a positive attitude will help alleviate someone's desire to control you.

♏ **Scorpio** Absorb information. Don't force your will on others. Once you have acquired the necessary knowledge, you can do as you please. Choose action over anger.

♐ **Sagittarius** Lay your cards on the table and sort through any differences you have with a personal or professional partner. Equality will be necessary to avoid conflict.

♑ **Capricorn** Not everyone will like the changes you want to make, but you have to do what's best for you and for your loved ones. Satisfy doubt with facts.

♒ **Aquarius** You can recall the past and reconnect with people you miss, but you must dwell in the now. It's essential to move forward with your life, regardless of what others are doing.

♓ **Pisces** Keep life simple, affordable and free of melodrama. Focus on the people you love and the things you love to do, and make sure to help the people who have always been there for you. EUGENIA LAST

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The Car Show is perfect for anyone of any age. KORY AVERSA

Start your engines

East Passyunk's Car Show and Street Festival is this weekend.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

East Passyunk's 14th Annual Car Show and Street Festival is back this weekend and the colorful extravaganza is really revving up the fun this year.

The Car Show is truly one of a kind. With 200 incredible muscle, classic, antique, custom and show cars, trucks and motorcycles lining the streets, it doesn't matter if you're an automobile fanatic or not — the sight of these unbelievable, unique and distinctive models is truly unforgettable. All of the hot rides have their own personality. Standouts from previous years include a neon pink vintage Chevrolet, a Cookie Monster-themed Camaro, a vintage Dodge police cruiser and an Eagles-clad automobile that certainly bled green.

Last year's Car Show was a record-breaking year, and 2019 will be no different. All of the unique models will be entered in a competition for the chance to win exciting prizes and trophies. Categories include Top 50, Best Stock, Best Modified, Best Engine, Best Paint, Best 50's Custom, Best Street Rod, Best Low Rider, Best Truck, Best Motorcycle, and Best of Show Car and Motorcycle. Participation is $20; check-in will take place between 8 and 11 a.m.

Guests can check out and peruse all of the incredible vehicles while wining and dining at some of the area's best culinary hot spots. Many top Passyunk eateries will be offering delicious specials, refreshing drinks, themed treats and much more.

Philadelphians can munch on car-shaped protein bars from Chhaya; sip on a tasty variety of cocktails from Manatawny Still Works; build their own "Sweet Ride" dessert car at Ground Up coffee shop; munch on enticing pizza slices from Isabella Pizza and La Scalas Birra; check out taco options at El Sarape; and much, much more. Participating restaurants will also offer specials indoors as well.

Be sure to look out for The Chilly Banana, French Toast Bites by Lokal Artisan Food, Hardy Funnel Cakes, Mike's BBQ, and Puyero Venezuelan Flavor's food trucks while at the festival, too.

"The 14th Annual Car Show and Street Festival is back and on track to be bigger than ever," said EPABID Executive Director Adam Leiter in a release. "Families from around the tri-state area flock to East Passyunk to cruise the cars, enjoy live music on every block, talk to car owners, and get a taste of the Avenue's food and shopping scene. We are thrilled to bring back South Philly's largest annual summer tradition!"

The Car Show and Street Festival will also have a plethora of talented bands outside performing live music. From smooth R&B to upbeat rock and dance-worthy oldies hits, the entertainment will certainly bring the fun up to 100 mph.

Guests can also indulge in plenty of enticing shopping opportunities while at the festival, including handmade items from local crafters and artists highlighting art, decor, ceramics, jewelry, clothing and gifts at a unique craft show (near the Singing Fountain) curated by Nice Things Handmade!

More fun and exciting happenings at the festival include games, a free bounce house, circus performers, temporary tattoos and more.

If you go:

July 28, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., East Passyunk Avenue between Broad and Dickinson streets, free-$20, visiteastpassyunk.com

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‘It’s a love letter to our fans and music itself’

Saves the Day frontman Chris Conley talks autobiographical meaning behind their latest album, “9,” and upcoming Philly show.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

This past year has been historic for celebrated rock band Saves the Day. The group’s latest album, “9,” was released at the end of 2018, and after a five-year album hiatus, the latest record is truly groundbreaking. Frontman Chris Conley wanted “9” to take fans on a musical tour of the band’s journey over the past two decades, through the unbelievable highs and heartbreaking lows. But mostly Conley wanted to celebrate the band’s legacy, music and the fans that make it all possible. Conley sat down with Metro to talk about how he was inspired to write the autobiographical album, why he needed to reflect and dive into why his music is always so honest.

Your latest album, “9,” tells the story of the band from your perspective. What was the inspiration behind writing it?
It sort of just came to me when I was writing the songs. Sometimes songs will pop into my head with the melodies and words, and the first song I knew was going to be on this album was the first song on the record, “Saves the Day.” When I was writing it and just sitting there with my guitar, these words just popped into my head: “Turn it up, we’re Saves the Day.” I thought it felt like a lot of fun. I had no idea where it was going at the time, but one of my favorite songs ever is the song “Wilco” by the band Wilco on their album “Wilco.” I just love that song because it’s like the Wilco theme song and also a great, weird song. Basically the message is, when you’re having a bad day, just put your headphones on and we’ll be here. So I thought, alright, I’ll go with this. I’m going to write the Saves the Day theme song. The next song that came out fully formed is the second song on the record, “Suzuki.” Once those two songs came out, I realized, okay, so this is the theme. That’s just my style of writing: I follow the inspiration and see where it leads. Once the third song came up, there was this cool guitar riff and the lyric that was attached to it when it came into my brain was “side by side.” So I thought, “Okay, how am I going to work this into my theme of writing about being in the band?” So I wrote the song about Bryan Newman, who is one of the other original band members in Saves the Day. He’s the guy that called me up one day after the summer of 1993. He said, “Hey, I heard you learned how to play guitar over the summer. Would you want to come jam?” All these years later I still have Bryan to thank for this incredible life and incredible journey — otherwise I just would have been playing Led Zeppelin songs in my bedroom.

Was all of that reflection a cathartic experience?
It was, actually. I ended up writing about things that I hadn’t thought about in years — some of the people that have come and gone in the band, which was emotional. Sometimes you don’t want to think about those things, but they surfaced as I was writing the lyrics. It was a cathartic experience and it felt very healing as well.

I’m sure there are references throughout this album that die-hard Saves the Day fans will pick up on as well.
Oh, yes. There are tons, absolutely. I did that intentionally on this album because it’s a love letter to our fans and music itself and just the band. I feel so grateful for all of these incredible years and the only reason we get to do it is because we have such great fans. I even named three of our fans in “Suzuki.” I also was referencing our own lyrics and songs intentionally so there would be a lot of fun stuff to discover as you dive deeper into the lyrics.

What would you tell fans old and new to expect from your show at Franklin Music Hall?
We try to play a song from every album, every single show. We’re really proud of the legacy and we like the music. Thank God we were always honest, so it never feels like a stretch even to sing songs that I wrote more than half my life ago.

Be sure to catch Saves the Day at This Is Hardcore Fest on July 27 at Franklin Music Hall.

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'Designer' babies: Intervention without standards

Chinese biophysics researcher He Jiankui's recent experiment of creating the first genetically edited human babies was condemned by the scientific community. He was criticized for skipping protocols, as well as for the social implications of his work.

LUZ LANCHEROS, MWN
letters@metro.us

ISTOCK

The 1997 science-fiction film "Gattaca" showed a dystopian future in which genetically modified children tailored at the wish of their parents, with "better" physical qualities, were those who obtained better jobs and leading places in society. Today, due to several very controversial scientific experiments, this could become a reality. For example, Russian scientist Denis Rebrikov and Chinese researcher He Jiankui have been experimenting with embryos that through the so-called CRISPR (clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats, a family of DNA sequences found within the genomes of organisms such as bacteria and archaea) method intend to edit genetics resulting in individuals immune to diseases such as HIV or even being born deaf. Last November, Jiankui managed the birth of a pair of baby twin girls with self-funded research.

But these experiments, especially those of the Chinese biophysics researcher, have generated rejection and controversy among the scientific community. Not only due to the door that this new form of eugenics opens, but also for the ways in which these experiments were conducted.

And there are several problems. For one, the scientist did not disclose all the data about his research. He said he had sent it to be published, but nothing came out of it. His colleagues did not have a chance to review anything before he provided the results, a fundamental and standard step that has to accompany any discovery or investigation. What he did is likely illegal and even his own country now is investigating whether he violated the law.

Jiankui modified the CCR5 gene, which produces a protein that causes HIV to infect cells. The scientist recruited people from an organization that helps HIV-positive couples in which the man has the virus and the woman does not. He tried to disable the gene with the CRISPR technique. Jiankui's early experiments were presented to two genetic companies, but there was no mention regarding the creation of pregnancies. The method used was also questioned, since the technique used modifies other genes besides the desired ones. And there is also another factor, the genetic mosaic, in which some cells contain the modified genes and others do not.

One of the criticisms of He Jiankui's experiment was precisely that there are less dangerous methods for protecting children from HIV.

"For example, in North America, in vitro fertilization uses sperm washing so the child can be born healthy. And clearly, you teach the child — like any other child at his age — about risky behaviors and how to prevent from getting the disease. Those are the ways in which you can achieve the disease not spreading," Françoise Baylis, professor at the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University in Canada, explained to Metro. "It has been reported that in China, for an HIV-positive partner, it is very difficult to access in vitro fertilization and it is true that it is very expensive. The couples who participated in this scientist's experiment were paid and he has even been supporting them financially after the birth. That's why there are many factors that influence this situation."

Jiankui has claimed that Lulu and Nana, the world's first genetically edited twins, were born healthy. But to date nothing has been proved. The scientific community worries about the girls' well-being, however a signed consent by their parents dissociates the scientist from any responsibility.

"Here we face what we call 'scientific integrity.' Scientists must act in adherence to certain values — an issue that today, in the world of research ethics, is in the foreground," Eduardo Diaz, expert in bioethics at Colombia-based Universidad Javeriana, stated.

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MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

GETTY IMAGES

The year-to-year swings in the NFL are more dramatic than ever, and with the exception of the Hue Jackson-era Browns it's rare to see teams post similarly pathetic win-loss records in back-to-back years. In other words, you can go from the outhouse to the penthouse in a heartbeat.

In 2017, the Colts went 4-12, the Texans went 4-12 and the Bears went 5-11. A year later, those teams went 11-5, 10-6 and 12-4, respectively.

The Giants do not have the top-to-bottom roster talent of any of those teams but there are reasons to believe they can at least win two or three more games than they did last year when they went 5-11.

Saquon Barkley could very well turn in an MVP-level season at running back this year. The Giants also replaced Odell Beckham Jr. with Golden Tate, and while Tate is a C+ talent-wise to Beckham's A+, he is a team-first player. Toward the end of his Giants stint, Beckham caused more headaches than he did touchdowns, so it will be interesting to see what happens when New York lives through a sideshow-less season. It's been a while.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Giants aren't going to blow anyone away. They allowed 25.8 points per game last season — good for 23rd in the league.

But the additions of defensive end Markus Golden, safety Jabrill Peppers and safety Antoine Bethea should at least offset the losses of Olivier Vernon and Landon Collins. Big Blue also added defensive tackle Dexter Lawrence out of Clemson in the first round of the draft, so this thing is not going to be a total train wreck.

Of course, the elephant in the room here is the quarterback situation. Do the Giants roll with Eli Manning yet again, or do they hand the keys to the rookie out of Duke, Daniel Jones?

This is not a team that is going to challenge for a Super Bowl by any means, but the low win-loss total of 5.5 games at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** combined with the fact that the Giants have the second-easiest schedule in the NFL begs for an Over bet.

The play: $10 on Giants Over 5.5 wins

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Best Bets

Phillies at Tigers

The Phillies could really use a sweep of this two-game series with the Tigers, which kicks off on Tuesday, to stay in the postseason hunt. They have a good chance to take the opener at Comerica Park as they send Aaron Nola (8-2, 3.77 ERA) to the hill against the rapidly-declining Matthew Boyd (6-8, 4.13 ERA).

The Tigers are just 3-13 in the month of July, losing six of their last seven games while scoring only 21 runs. Prior to allowing four runs over five rough innings against the Dodgers on July 18, Nola had surrendered just three earned runs over his last five starts. The LSU product has allowed the fifth-most walks in the NL this year, but Detroit is 28th at drawing the free pass.

Boyd has pitched to a 6.08 ERA in eight starts since the start of June. He's served up 14 home runs in his last 47 1/3 innings of work. The Phillies have plated just 4.13 runs per game in July, but they should muster enough offense to prevail in this potentially low-scoring contest.

The play: Phillies moneyline and Phillies vs. Tigers Under Parlay

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STRUGGLING PHILLIES STARTING

Zach Eflin has shown a disturbing trend of wearing down early in starts. GETTY IMAGES

This was going to be the next generation of Phillies starters: Nick Pivetta, Jerad Eickhoff, Zach Eflin, Vince Velasquez.

Slot in Aaron Nola at the top, add Jake Arrieta as a veteran presence, and the Phils seemed to have the makings of a rotation capable of battling for a pennant.

Now, they couldn't even win a backyard dodgeball game.

Through Sunday, that Quartet of Disappointment has made 53 starts this season. They've combined for a 5.01 ERA, 16-23 record and 69 home runs allowed — an ungodly 2.1 homers per nine innings.

What happened? How did all that potential drown down a well of disappointment?

I've been on record here criticizing the work of Chris Young, the Phillies' young pitching coach, who just seems to make guys worse. And injuries have been a factor, at least with Eickhoff's regression from a solid 2016.

But it goes beyond that. Usually, athletes must look in the mirror to overcome their failures. This group of 20-somethings seems loath to do that.

Let's start with Eflin, whose 4.25 ERA actually puts him at the head of this class. After getting bombed by the Pirates Saturday night, Eflin blamed his poor performance on "heavy body."

"It's felt heavy for a little bit," said Eflin, who stands 6 feet 6 inches and weighs 215 pounds. "It's something you go through during a

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PITCHERS NEED TO JUST GROW UP

Nick Pivetta (No. 43) has wilted in the face of adversity this season as the Phillies rotation continues to struggle. GETTY IMAGES

season."

Really? I've covered baseball for decades, and heard every excuse — but never this one. Eflin said he has no major health problem, adding, "Sometimes you wake up, you don't feel great."

Okay, I guess that means we list his ailment as "logy." That malady also affected Eflin against Atlanta last week, when he said a 13-pitch at-bat by Ronald Acuna Jr. wore him out. In the first inning.

I hate to be the iconoclast, so I won't refer to Lefty Carlton days to cite when starting pitchers were tougher. Let's just imagine how Eflin's "heavy body" defense would go over in a meeting with Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee, Cole Hamels and Roy Oswalt.

Eflin's not alone in his immaturity. Nick Pivetta, touted for stardom by so many, was busted to the bullpen last week after his ERA reached a stratospheric 5.70. It was Pivetta's second demotion this season, including a six-start stint at Lehigh Valley.

He did not take adversity well. Interviewed by beat reporters in Pittsburgh, Pivetta gave a sulking response. "They had their explanation," he offered, "and I'm in the bullpen. That's all I have to say. It's their decision."

Pivetta has lost effectiveness on his curveball this season, particularly to right-handed hitters. And he tires quickly: According to the analytics site FanGraphs.com, his fastball loses 1.2 mph after his 50th pitch.

Perhaps Pivetta and Eflin can still mature into capable starters. Eickhoff's issue seems to be overcoming injuries. As for Velasquez, I gave up on him a long time ago.

Let me pause to praise Arrieta, who's pitching through bone spurs in his throwing elbow. Arrieta has fallen far short of the level the Phils thought they were paying for, but give him credit for gutting it out.

Management had enough confidence in these young starters that they left the rotation alone last winter while committing $440 million to new position players. In hindsight, that appears a terrible decision. The Phils had to add bottom-feeder Drew Smyly to the rotation Sunday. He rewarded them with a solid start.

Any success from Smyly is an unexpected bonus. It would be preferred if one of the young starters would step up — and grow up — to reach his potential.

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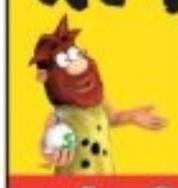

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Porsha Rone unit #202;
Derek Wiley unit #218;
Joanna Hawkins unit #410;
Mary Otoole unit #804;
Crystal Daniels unit #1020;
Theresa A. Minch unit #1021;
Raymond S. Harris unit #1232;
William Shipley unit #1307.

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Tanisha Hines unit #318;
Chantia Riggins unit #409;
Gioavonda Gilliard unit #416;
Kimberly Williams unit #511;
Sheik Jalloh unit #701;
Fambro Dwunna unit #705;
Dane Desouza unit #714;
Paul Anthony Dixon unit #805;
Daryl Hall unit #1011;
Taheem Goodman unit #1216;
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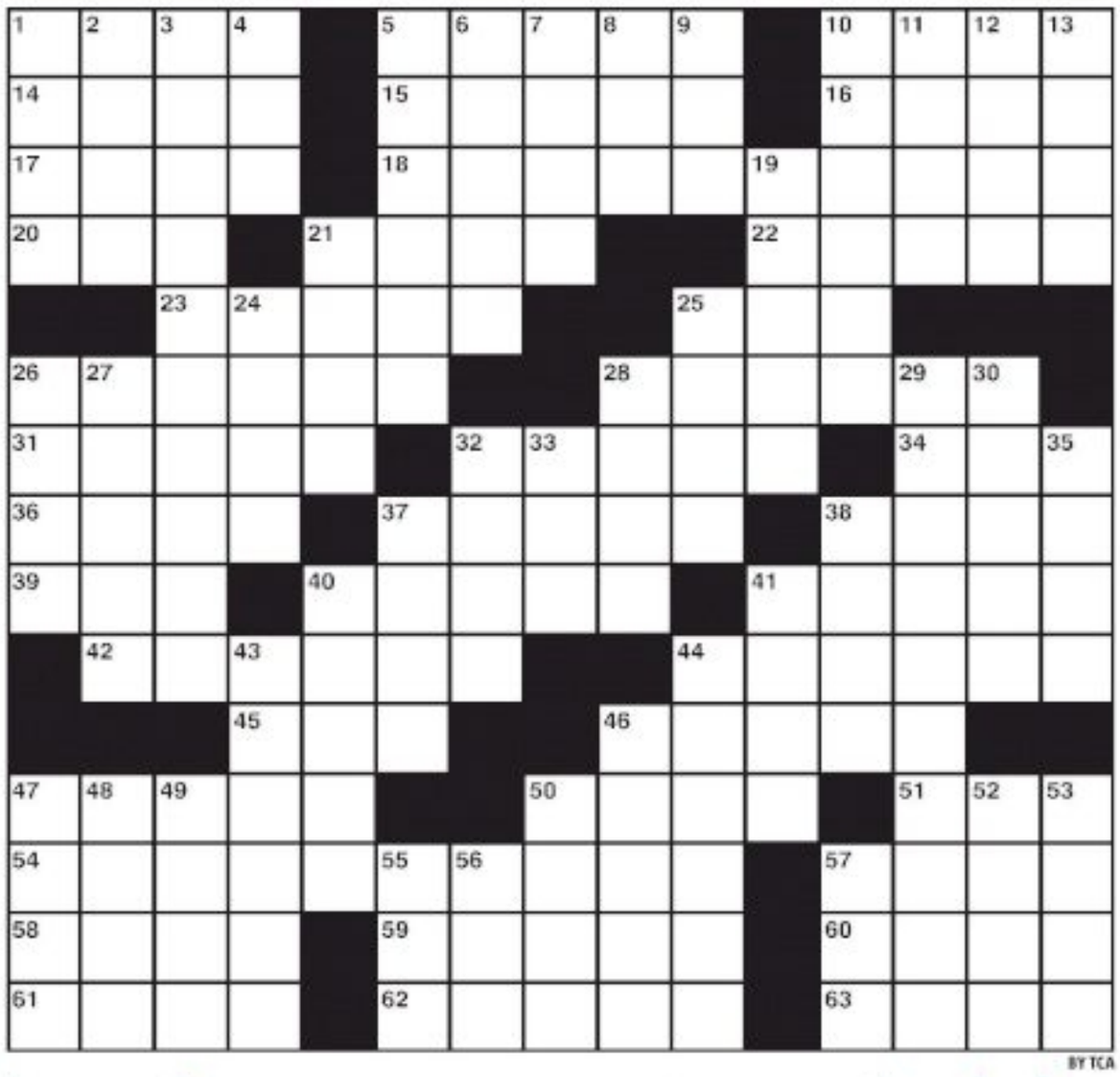

ACROSS
1 Mountain ridge
5 Venetian blind pieces
10 Opine online
14 Byway
15 Eastern capital
16 Overnight dance party
17 Highest point
18 __ agent; spy
20 To the __; fully
21 Yucky
22 Warning device
23 Lively dance
25 Part of TGIF: abbr.
26 Walks off with
28 Actor James
31 Whiplash sites
32 Take a __ to; like
34 Religious promise
36 Sciences' partner
37 Circular snack
38 Reminder
39 Prefix for paid or med
40 Nudges along roughly
41 Not as ornate
42 Mixed up
44 Western sight
45 __ deal; unfair treatment
46 Connective tissue
47 Wizardry
50 Fix socks
51 Used to own
54 Trustworthy
57 Pool unit
58 Rubik's invention
59 Still breathing
60 Shackle
61 __-fry; wok dish
62 Deadly viper
63 Queue cue

DOWN
1 Grand __; four-run homer
2 __ Bear
3 Out of the blue
4 Film critic Reed
5 Removes corn husks
6 Sri __
7 Actor Griffith
8 Extremity
9 __ Isaac Newton
10 Actor James
11 Volcanic output
12 Done with
13 Bit of bacteria
19 Tote
21 Plagues
24 Large trees
25 In __; truly
26 Button alternative
27 __ firma; dry land
28 Wildebeests
29 Worldwide
30 Tragic Shakespearean lover
32 Vittles
33 Common connector
35 __-out; exhausted
37 "The Price Is Right" host
38 Horse's neck hair
40 Run in __; use a treadmill
41 Musical group
43 Chauffeur
44 Hot coal fragment
46 Begin a tennis game
47 Big __; fast-food hamburgers
48 Lie next to
49 Large desert
50 Duster
52 Healthy as __
53 Fender ding
55 Cry from a flock
56 Aged
57 Martini ingredient

BY TCA

metro.us/wordsearch

D	X	E	I	L	L	E	P	S	G
U	B	P	V	R	N	P	Q	T	R
M	C	D	O	G	H	A	R	R	Y
B	Y	R	L	T	P	N	M	A	F
L	Y	A	D	C	T	S	O	W	F
E	N	Z	E	I	Y	E	O	G	I
D	F	I	M	G	W	N	R	O	N
O	O	W	O	A	I	A	B	H	D
R	H	E	R	M	I	O	N	E	O
E	C	O	T	M	E	M	I	D	R

Broom
Dumbledore
England
Gryffindor
Harry
Hermione
Hogwarts
Magic
Potter
Ron
Snape
Spell
Voldemort
Wand
Wizard

metro.us/wander

Category: Author

C	E	O	J	
K	B	H	N	S
	N	I	E	T

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		3					6	
8		4		3	6	1		9
		2	7			5		8
9			4				5	
1			5	6	7			3
	3				2			7
4		9			5	3		
3		5	9	2		4		6
	6					7		

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W	E	T	H	E		A	M	B	U	L	A	N	C	E
E	L	I		T	I	N			M	A	R	K	E	T
		M	E	A	N	S			B	B	C			
T	R	I	V	I	A			S	L	E	E	P	Y	
W	I	D	E	N		S	P	I	E	L		R	E	D
A	S	A	N		H	E	A	P	S		D	E	L	I
S	E	T		B	E	A	D	S		R	I	F	L	E
	R	E	S	U	L	T			C	A	R	E	S	S
			H	I	P			O	U	T	E	R		
S	C	R	O	L	L			P	E	T		E	B	B
C	L	A	U	D	E	T	T	E		E	R	N	I	E
A	U	N	T		S	W	A	N		D	I	C	K	S
N	E	T	S		S	O	N	S			B	E	E	T

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